

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Mixing sex and politics since 1911.

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION ISSUE

Being counted

If any level of government has the potential to effect real change, it's the city administration. While provincial and federal governments house themselves in antique splendour and fiddle with constitutional clauses, municipal government is close enough to neighbourhoods and communities to be influenced by human-scale needs, from ecological damage control to minority rights.

People in Montréal first grasped such possibilities decades ago. But the Montréal Citizens' Movement, one of the original venue for local progressive ideas, gradually gave up its ideals in the quest for power that culminated in its 1986 electoral sweep.

The articles on the pages to follow demonstrate that the MCM in City Hall has been an even bigger disappointment. The Doré administration has betrayed those who voted MCM in 1986 with the words 'democracy' and 'livable city' on their minds.

Uglier buzzwords now capture the spirit of the MCM administration: Anthony Griffin, Overdale, master plan, urban sprawl, no recycling, economic underdevelopment... Any serious analyst must conclude, "No more," and affirm it in this Sunday's municipal elections.

Some strong individuals are still working within the MCM, but the best and brightest have left the party for new formations. Ecology Montréal and the Democratic Coalition, in particular, offer citizens a blend of old MCM values and solid responses to today's changing circumstances. Both these parties make up in conscience what they might lack in experience.

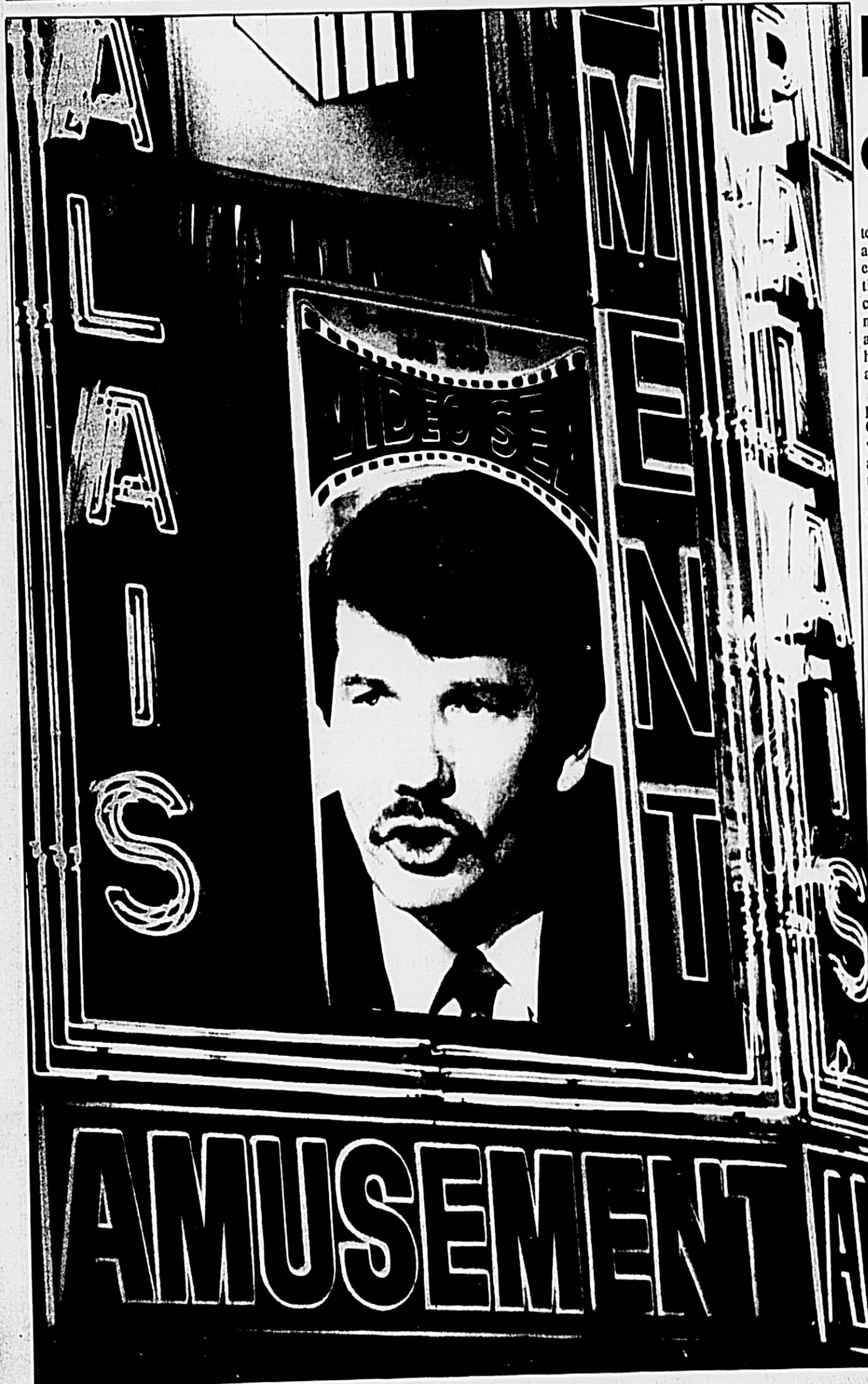
While it's unfortunate the two intelligent alternatives remain split on some issues, they at least have agreed not to run candidates against one another in most municipal districts this year. This provides a clear plan of action.

This Sunday, the *Daily* urges you to vote for either Ecology Montréal or Democratic Coalition candidates, depending which party appears on your district's ballot.

Montréal's unusual municipal party system offers unique opportunities for voters to place a coherent and consistent opposition in City Hall. While it seems unlikely any contender this weekend will be able to unseat the now-entrenched MCM regime, an assembly of tough critics would make fiascos like the ones we've seen in the last four years harder to conceal.


The candidates for the Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal have the makings of a vigilant opposition, to defend Montréal citizens' rights and social needs against more irresponsible interests. It's not just that they deserve our support; we deserve theirs.

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MCM from ashes to auction block

There are a lot of secrets at City Hall, but it's no secret that the Montréal Citizen's Movement has found itself under fire in the few weeks leading up to the elections.

by Karen Herland

Opposition parties take the obvious pot shots, but lately the city's major media have been working overtime to evaluate the party's record and expose corruption. The news is filled with unreturned campaign loans, city bureaucrats and tax dollars working for MCM self-interest, and unsavory characters aiding city development projects.

But it's more disillusionment than scandal that's caused the MCM's 55-of-58 seat majority on city council to dwindle to 47 through councillor defections, and the party's traditional community constituencies to wrinkle their collective brows in worry.

The MCM emerged from the ashes of the Front d'action politique (FRAP) in 1974. The new party retained the grassroots, broad-based tone of its predecessor. It spent years as an opposition party whose effectiveness depended on how many seats it managed to get at Jean Drapeau's Civic Party table.

But it's four years now since the MCM left the kiddie table in the corner and took its place front and centre. The MCM was elected in 1986 on a program close to its roots: democracy, accessibility, the environment, tenants over developers, more consultation, more decentralization and quality of life over expensive large-scale plans.

At a public debate last week, city executive member John Gardiner announced that the MCM has fulfilled all 82 of its 82 promises. His declaration was deceiving. Perhaps the MCM touched on all the dossiers it claimed it would, but how much did they really manage to achieve over the last four years?

Not even the mayor knows

Just trying to get answers from the city is an answer in itself. The city of Montréal has a \$1.6 billion budget, one-third of which goes to pay 12 000 city employees. Very few of these people know what the others are doing.

When one Access-Montréal staff member was asked how the city administration works, she said, "Not even the mayor knows." Not very reassuring.

It's fine to say City Hall is now accessible, but knowing you can get a report if you ask for it is not the same as knowing what to ask for. The city produces literally hundreds of reports every year (mostly on one-sided unrecycled paper), and no one has as yet seen fit to list them all. There are still several documents that are only available in archives, including the budget itself.

Meanwhile, there's plenty of information citizens might want to know about the state of Montréal under *l'état Doré*.

Bureaucratic facelift

Fully one-third of the city's population lives below the poverty line. Some areas list an unemployment rate of between 20 and 25 per cent. The city population is down 20 per cent.

There's been less new housing construction in the last electoral term than in the term before. And the MCM sees only 15 per cent of all domestic waste in the city as being recyclable, while other municipalities target figures like 70 per cent.

Looking at individual dossiers reveals only part of the picture. Everyone who reads the

papers knows the names of the city's big mistakes: Overdale, Anderson, the Queen's Hotel, the downtown master plan, recycling, greenspace, the list goes on. The question is why it continues to happen.

The MCM points to a series of basically cosmetic, reorganizational measures as the bulk of its promises fulfilled. Thirteen 'Access-Montréal' offices exist, and nine 'District Advisory Councils' have been created around nine new districts.

City Hall has gone from having over 20 separate departments to 14, but a 'Bureau of Public Consultations' has been created (with three consultations to its credit), as has a 'Bureau on Intercultural and Interracial Relations'.

Five permanent commissions of council have been created to explore areas of public interest ranging from city finances to AIDS. And city council meetings now have question periods.

These changes were made to give residents access to City Hall. Citizens can go to a neighbourhood council meeting and ask about zoning changes, for example, or to a local Access-Montréal office. They can go to city council meetings and address a question on zoning to a councillor. If the change is really big (like those that affect Mount Royal), they might be able to go to a public consultation and present a brief on zoning changes.

But whichever methods they choose, the question will eventually be answered by seven MCM councillors behind the closed doors of a city Executive Council meeting. Because when all is said and done, it is still these seven councillors, handpicked by Jean Doré immediately after the last election, who decide everything.

As Doré wrote in his book criticizing the Drapeau government, "The executive committee's commitment to retaining its control is absolute."

With the MCM holding all the key positions in committees and commissions at City Hall, the vast majority of seats in council, and with an unwritten rule about party solidarity, opposition is not a big problem.

Party solidarity means that conflict remains hidden. And voting against the executive has come to mean voting against the MCM. Last year, four councillors left the MCM because the party would not admit dissent. The four eventually formed the Democratic Coalition.

Begging to differ

In short, the executive committee controls city council. They make the rules and then they approve them.

The only real opposition comes from community groups during consultations. But situations like Overdale, when the city evicted a whole low-income neighbourhood to clear the way for condos, make it perfectly clear that recommendations made through consultations are in no way binding on the executive committee.

Although the council's own commission sided with Overdale residents over the developers, the executive rewarded the developers in the end.

In the case of the downtown development plan — just the beginning of a series of urban



Kiss and tell with incumbent mayor Jean Doré and the MCM.

development plans the MCM intends to cover the whole city by 1992 — hundreds of individuals and groups were contacted.

But at the last minute, pro-development loopholes were peppered throughout the plan. A few of these were changed again at the eleventh hour, in favour of community and heritage groups, but the city continued to okay dozens of development contracts, totaling \$800 million.

All this left a bad taste in the mouths of citizens who felt they had been led to a half-price sale, only to discover prices had been doubled before the sale started.

The opposition recognizes the fakery in the MCM's claim to community consultation. Marvin Rotrand of the Democratic Coalition has called the structure "a façade of consultation."

'Consultation' takes years of shuffling reports to and from the executive committee. In the end, the final decision rests with the committee, to be rubber-stamped by council as a whole.

Promises, promises

The decision about what deserves consultation and what doesn't is in the executive's hands, too. Two of the MCM's big promises in 1986 were to make Montréal a nuclear-free zone and to divest totally from South Africa.

Both dossiers were opened early in 1987, and are still being discussed. Some legislation in both areas has been passed, but the bulk of the recommendations on how to concretely make these changes are still being considered.

Meanwhile, the city continues to rent office space in Place Ville Marie, owned by Trizec, which also rents to the South African Consulate, and city buses run on Shell oil, despite Shell ties to the apartheid regime. As for the military free zone, in 1988 the city gave the nod to Matrox — a corporation that wanted to nuke greenspace and build offices — to work

on a U.S. military contract.

While these two planks in the MCM platform have taken four years to come to semi-fruit, other projects have proved remarkably less complicated.

According to a document outlining the administration's achievements over the last four years, the plan to turn the Olympic Velodrome into a Biodome was passed in two months. No need for consultation here, it seems, although cyclists and non-cyclists alike are still questioning the worth of the Biodome.

All in all, the document lists hundreds of MCM 'achievements', but most of them are merely promises to continue a dialogue. Of the 50 or so concrete promises, 24 were approved only in the last couple of months, and most require continued discussion. Maybe four years is not enough time to change the world, but it should be enough time to do more than just discuss changes in a city.

What has changed is the MCM party programme. The promised district city halls (which were never given power to do more than make recommendations to the omnipotent executive committee) are now being described as 'socio-cultural decision makers'.

Huge chunks of the old MCM program are still parroted word for word — they're on the 'to do' list — but the changes are significant. The three pages of the 1986 program dealing with women's issues, for example, have been reduced to a single recommendation regarding safety.

The number of MCM stalwarts who've fled to Ecology Montréal and the Democratic Coalition in the past four years is surely indicative that there is more behind the critical headlines than just poor public perception. Whether the party has simply been ineffectual or actually has grown attached to its power, Montréalers cannot help but muse before they vote over whether an MCM by any other name might smell sweeter.



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The Pillar Magazine needs writers for feature articles. Deadline is November 10. Call right now 398-4183. Or drop in 3479 Peel, 3rd Floor.

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Marrying democracy and ecology

by M.D. Pavelich and Carl Wilson

The Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal may have similar platforms, but Montréalers who hope this might lead to an opposition merger have a hard road ahead of them.

Both parties fall in the long tradition of progressive opposition in Montréal city politics, a tradition from which the now-ruling Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) grew in the mid-70s.

The Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal have both tried to recapture the more ambitious social program proposed by the MCM before its ideals were diluted. The Democratic Coalition, however, has emphasized the social and economic aspects of the agenda, while Ecology Montréal has concentrated on decentralization and the environment.

These seemingly complemen-

tary platforms have left many Montréal progressives wondering whether the two could join forces after the elections this Sunday.

"Some people have been talking about a merger for a while," said Ian Ritchie, the Ecology Montréal candidate in Notre Dame de Grace.

"It's been happening especially on the Democratic Coalition side, but most of us at Ecology Montréal feel it wouldn't be in our favor." Ritchie did not rule out working with the Democratic Coalition, but said any merged party would have to be a 'green' one.

Prior to the election campaign, the Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal agreed not to run candidates in the same districts. The agreement has held everywhere except in the Mile End and Plateau Mont-Royal districts, where candidates from both progressive oppo-

sition parties face MCM executive member John Gardiner and mayor Jean Doré, respectively.

"The two exceptions are unfortunate. We really don't consider each other to be political opponents," explained Snowden Democratic Coalition candidate Marvin Rotrand. "People in those two districts had started their work long ago. We couldn't ask anyone to step down."

The two parties were born out of a series of meetings last year exploring alternatives to the MCM.

"We wanted to build on the experience of the green parties in Europe," said Dimitri Roussopoulos, Ecology Montréal candidate in Jeanne Mance. "We felt we must be a green party to be a real alternative. Those in the Democratic Coalition didn't want to go that far."

"The Coalition is nothing more than the NDP at the municipal level.

The MCM claims to be the same thing. It's tough to see the difference, other than the personalities."

Roussopoulos's view seems to neglect the Democratic Coalition's policy statements, which focus on minority rights, gay and lesbian rights, poverty and other issues which have nearly fallen off the MCM's agenda.

Many Montréal activists would say that the Democratic Coalition is the reincarnation of the MCM of the early '80s — whose policies matched its rhetoric — while Ecology Montréal simply takes an extra step, adding the tenets of 'social ecology'.

The greatest difference between the parties is their vision of the decentralization of power in city government, according to Rotrand.

"Sure, we believe in giving more power to the neighborhoods and using referendums," he said. "But

Ecology Montréal wants abolition of City Hall by putting all power in the neighborhood councils."

Roussopoulos said any future deals with the Democratic Coalition will depend on who is elected November 4. "A lot will depend on how developed and compatible their political philosophies are," he said.

According to Rotrand, the city will be better off if members are elected from both parties. "Realistically speaking, we won't be forming the next government. I don't want to mislead anyone. But together we can form a healthy opposition," he said.

Dimitri Roussopoulos agrees with Rotrand.

"If the MCM takes over again like the media are predicting, there's no question there would have to be concerted and unified opposition action. What the modalities would be, we can't decide now," he said.

Municipal right stumbles onto the stage

by Alex Roslin

It's been said everything in history happens twice: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. Montréal's right-wing municipal parties are gearing up for a second go at power.

Yesterday's Jean Drapeau is today's Nicole Gagnon-Larocque and Alain André, hoping to carry the torch of the notorious Montréal

mayor in Sunday's elections.

But farce is the last thing disgruntled Montréal voters need. Montréalers ended Jean Drapeau's 30-year reign in 1986, tired of the way he ran Montréal like an old-style ward boss who fancied himself a Caesar.

Drapeau was infamous for building pharaonic monuments to his

ego, like the financially-bloated Olympic Park. Just as infamous were Montréal's dilapidated roads and municipal services.

Besides their dislike for Drapeau's autocratic ways, Montréalers were troubled by increasingly hard economic times. Businesses were evacuating Montréal for the suburbs, exacerbating the city's industrial decline.

Now, one-third of Montréalers live under the poverty line, and 15 000 are homeless. The city is home to 16 per cent of Québec's population and 40 percent of its poor people. Largely because of the poverty, ethnic and class tensions are at an explosive level.

But Drapeau could not have cared less. If he was Caesar, his Cleopatra was the development industry.

"We used to deal directly with the mayor," said Marian Howard, executive director of the developer-lobby Institut de Développement Urbain (IDU). "Now we have to go through the planning department."

Things may have changed after the 1986 election; Drapeau's Civic party didn't. What remained of his merry band regrouped and is now looking for another chance.

From tragedy to tragedy...

Sometime between 1986 and now, Drapeau's surviving cronies helped cobble together two municipal parties to vie for the right-wing vote. The revamped Civic party is fronted by Nicole Gagnon-Larocque, an old-time party worker. The newly formed Municipal party is headed by Alain André, a former aide to Drapeau's administration.

True to their lineage, both parties agree there are only two major issues in the current election: lowering business taxes and lifting restrictions on condo conversion.

The past four years have been too hard on business, according to Municipal candidate Nick Auf der Maur, a former Civic party mem-

ber; and tenants' fears of condo conversion are just "feverish," he said.

But it's not as if the Montréal Citizens' Movement, which routed the Civic party in 1986, hasn't already done a lot for business interests. In the party's first two years of power, business taxes fell by about 20 per cent for corporate giants like the Prudential Building, Place Ville-Marie, Trust General and the Permanent Building.

The MCM itself is thinking about lifting a moratorium on condo conversion. Meanwhile, landlords have taken advantage of loopholes to evict thousands of tenants and gentrify many areas of the city.

Developers were on the whole "pleasantly pleased" by the MCM's performance, according to the IDU's Howard. Still, while she won't come right out and say it, Howard probably wouldn't mind seeing the Civic party or the Municipal party back in power. "We are impressed by Alain André (Municipal candidate for mayor). He is very aware of the issues," she said.

For their part, social activists and community workers say landlords pass any increases in property taxes on to tenants. Three-quarters of Montréalers are tenants and one-fifth spend over half their income on rent. According to a recent report by the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development, unrestricted condo conversion leads to rent increases, tenant harassment, and building disrepair.

...and on to farce

Few of either party's election candidates have active records in their communities. Many are actually known only for their wingy positions and comments. Civic party leader Nicole Gagnon-Larocque, for one, is most famous for accusing MCM leader Jean Doré of harbouring terrorists from the Red Brigade during the 1982 election

campaign.

Gagnon-Larocque is also known for championing 19th century *laissez-faire* doctrines and opposing the MCM's hesitant steps toward democratization.

Other Civic party members are similarly bizarre. Independent candidate Germain Prigent, an ex-Civic party councillor, recently made headlines for saying of his female opponents, "It's not all the time I have the chance to beat women... That's a joke, eh."

Another oddity is Alfie Segal, Civic party candidate in Snowdon — and former proprietor of Alfie's Strip Club on Decarie Blvd. (Segal might be uncomfortable if elected, what with the size of the Civic party's law-and-order wing, running on anti-strip club platforms).

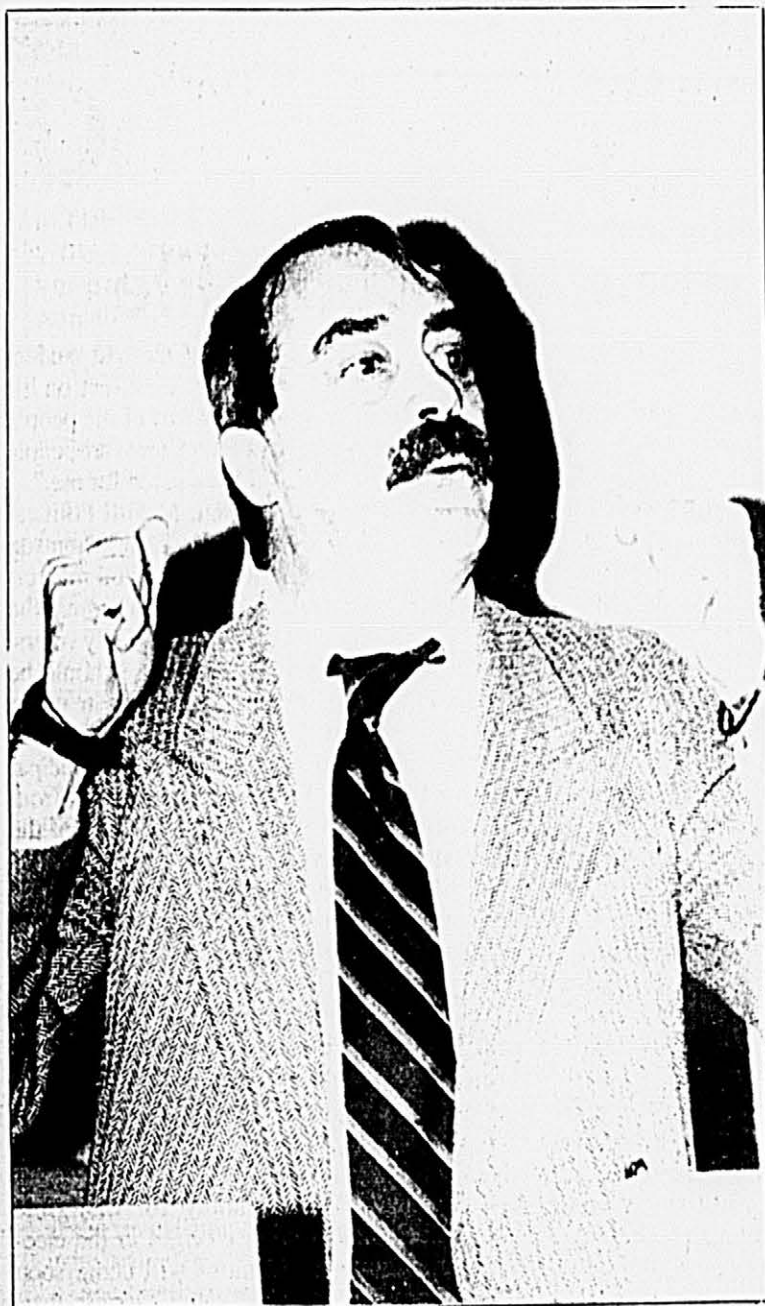
"At least Drapeau had some quality control," said Arnold Bennett, the MCM's candidate in the downtown Peter McGill district and a well-known tenants' rights activist.

Even members of the Municipal party, for all their ties to Drapeau, look at today's Civic line-up with scorn and bemusement. "They're very unimaginative. At least Drapeau was imaginative," according to Auf der Maur, the Municipal party's most flamboyant candidate.

Some like Robert Stec, Municipal party candidate in the Mile-End district, yearn for the Drapeau days. "We want to return the role of city councillor to what it was before the MCM," he said.

Another well-known Municipal candidate agreed. "Drapeau was a good man. People loved this guy," said Victor Rodriguez, running for the Municipal party in Jeanne Mance. Despite his admiration for the ex-mayor, Rodriguez said he chose not to run for the Civic party because it doesn't have a chance of winning.

Tragedy or farce, even Drapeau may be gritting his teeth thinking about the heirs to his reign.



Auf der Maur is one of the noisiest of loopy city reactionaries.

Most candidates ignore municipal youth issues

by Dan Robins

Victor Rodriguez is not alone. Lots of other candidates could say with equal conviction that youth issues are "not part of my platform."

Youth issues just don't seem to be high on anybody's list this election. Yolande Cohen, Ecology Montréal candidate for Mont Royal said, "It's an issue that has not been addressed very seriously."

Rodriguez is the Municipal party candidate in Jeanne Mance, and sees other issues as being more important for him. Among these is the proliferation of crime in his area.

However, Scott McKay, MCM incumbent in Honoré-Beaugard, said crime is a youth issue. "A lot of young people are involved in criminal acts of violence," he said.

Cohen agreed. "The problem of youth and gangs in Montréal is crucial," she said.

For Ian Ritchie, Ecology Montréal candidate in NDG, the problem stems from politicians, whose actions produce "despair and apathy" in youth. He sees the solution in "giving young people a feeling of hope about the future."

Rodriguez suggested that the answer lies in providing places where youth can get together for sports and recreation, though he made no specific proposals.

Ritchie said the present MCM administration "has no clue how to decrease the number of drug addicts." However, McKay defended his party, saying the MCM has been

implementing plans to deal with these problems.

He said 'consultation' tables have been introduced to help deal with the problem of youth violence. They bring together social workers, police, and others who are involved in the issue.

Eco-Youth

When asked what he thought was the most important issue for youth, Ritchie said simply, "Survival. I think the youth of today would like a world of tomorrow."

According to David Suzuki, the world has ten years to turn itself around before the holy handbasket comes down and takes us all to hell. Ritchie sees this as a problem for youth who would like to live beyond the next ten years.

However, the handbasket is not presently being avoided by the municipal government, which is run by politicians "with no concern for turning things around," Ritchie said.

One part of this re-orientation is a shift from car to bicycle transportation. This issue is especially relevant to youth since students are already riding their bicycles to school.

Ritchie said that cycling should be made safer and more convenient, and that it should be acknowledged that bikes are being used for commuting, and not just recreation. This would necessitate the development of a network of bike paths, as well as safe and accessible

racks.

The only other candidate to mention the environment was Shayne Kenny of the Democratic Coalition, running in Cartierville, who said he supported Ritchie.

The No-Cash Polka

The most important issue for youth is unemployment, said Karim Choukri, Civic Party candidate in Darlington.

He described a Civic Party plan to help youth start up their own businesses. This would involve providing space, and advice from people with a better idea of what they're doing — in particular, Management professors.

The MCM tried to deal with youth unemployment, but ran into troubles when municipal employees refused to time-share with jobless youth, according to McKay.

Meanwhile, poverty among youth is rising. Rodriguez pointed out that young people are coming to Sun Youth for food in increasing numbers. However, he stressed again that "it's not part of my platform."

Shayne Kenny of the Democratic Coalition said the problem is that money isn't available for employment programs. The trickle-down theory is inadequate, and some method has to be found to redistribute money before jobs can really be created, he said.

Kenny wasn't optimistic about the prospects for job creation in Montréal, but estimated that at least

a few thousand should be possible.

Ritchie disagreed with Kenny's estimate. "Full employment is a possibility if we make it a priority," he said, adding that Ecology Montréal would make full employment a priority, "as opposed to the present régime."

But unemployment merely tops off the list of economic blows directed at youth. The GST, and new provincial welfare 'reform', better known as welfare cutbacks, will only add to the problems of financially strapped youth, said Kenny.

"We don't have a plan here, economically. The whole country is screwed up," he said.

Participation

"We need more participation," said Rodriguez, referring to both youth and seniors. In fact, all of these youthful candidates seemed to agree that youth should get more involved in municipal politics.

McKay admitted that "this city reaches a very small proportion of teenagers." However, as City Hall's youngest councillor, he is "always trying to find new ways to involve youth in municipal affairs."

In the same line, Civic Party candidate Choukri said "it's necessary (youth) get more involved in the building of their own future."

Cohen said that Ecology Montréal, for one, has been rather successful in attracting youth. She herself is a professor at UQAM, but many of her party's candidates are young.

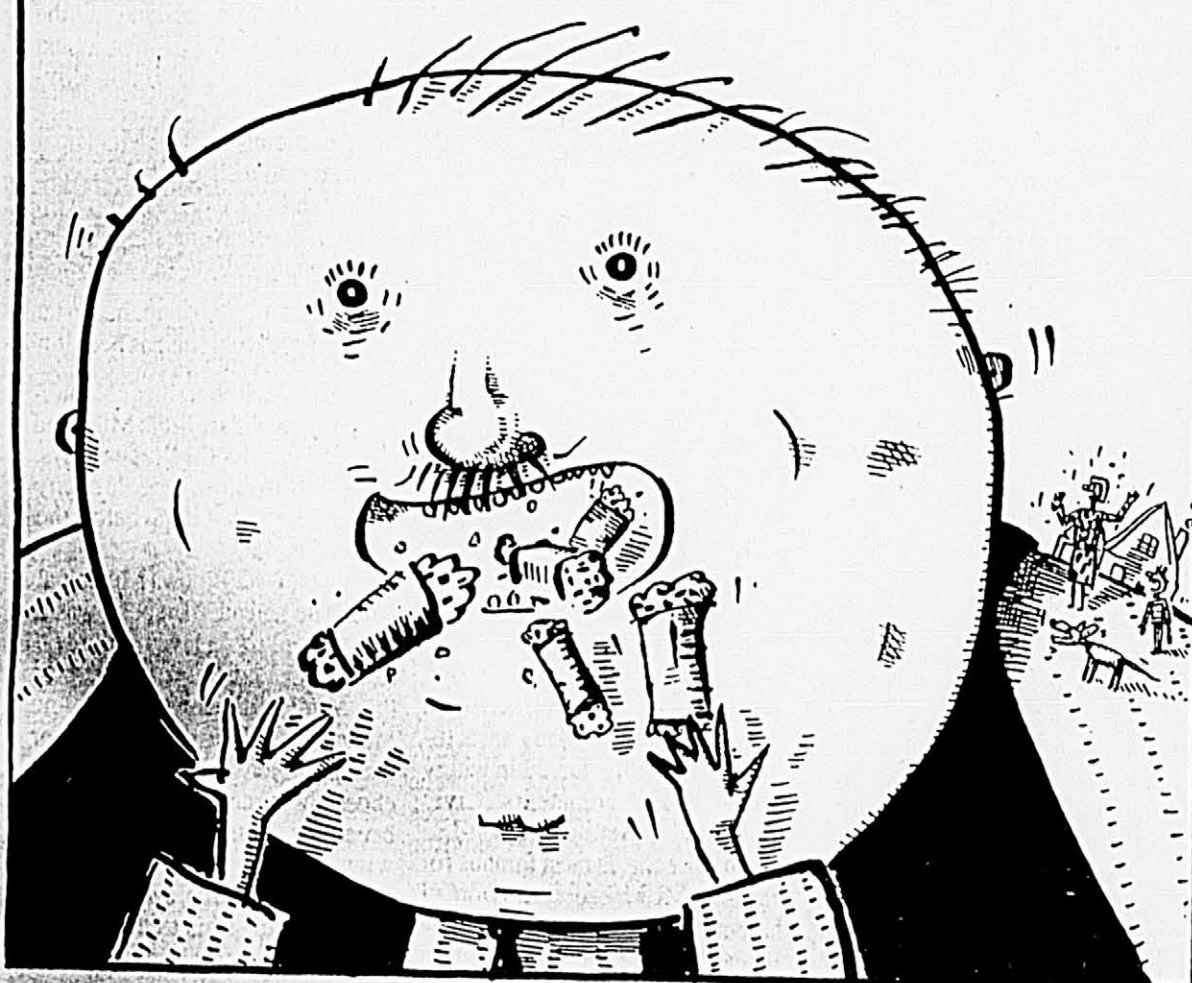


One such candidate is Marc-Eric Plante, running in Pierre de Coubertin, who said that youth participation was important, and that he thought his party would be able to make progress in this area.

AIDS

No one even mentioned it as a youth issue.

While neighbourhood kids and recent arrivals watched in horror, Mr. I.M. Boring gobbled up another fistful of votes.



Registration laws inadequate for student, urban life

by Denise Oliver

To vote or not to vote — some students just don't have that choice.

A municipal law stipulating voters must be Montréal residents for at least one year will exclude more than 2000 students from Sunday's election.

City councillor Arnold Bennett said that out of 4862 people reported absent in the Peter McGill area, 2,057 were not eligible because of their resident status.

Bennett said that the present enumeration system needs to be changed to make new Montréal residents eligible to vote, and to better reflect today's urban lifestyle.

"The system we have is not fit for modern society. It is based on nineteenth-century society where [enumerators] go and speak to the head of the family," Bennett said.

He noted another element contributing to low student registration is students' schedules which are often more erratic than working people's. "Students are less likely to be home in the early evening when enumerators come around," he said.

Bennett expects strong student

support and said the lost student votes could have an effect on his performance. "Most of the people who didn't get registered are people who would have voted for me."

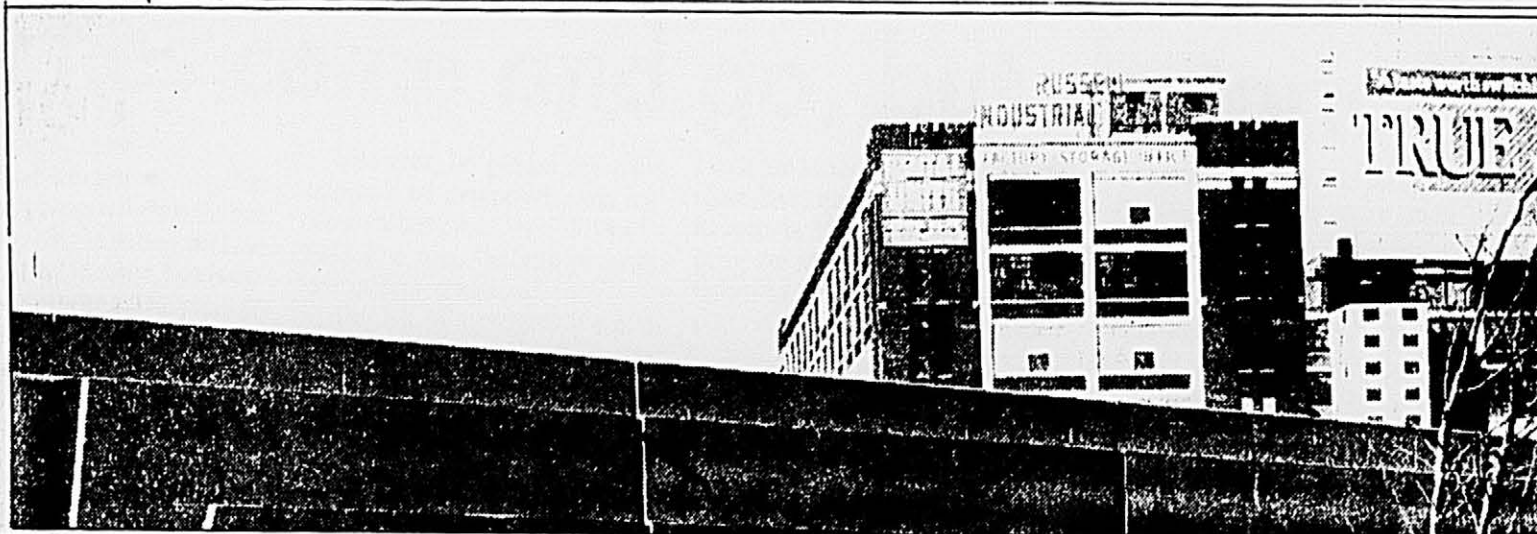
Like Bennett, McGill Political Science professor Dale Thomson criticized the "antiquated municipal laws" for failing to address the needs of the majority of city voters.

"I think a lot more should be done to involve people in urban areas," Thomson said.

He also blamed the municipal laws for excluding students from the voting process because of the one year residency rule. "If anybody is paying taxes, even indirectly, they should have the right to vote," he added.

Thomson believes there is a "desperate need to update and upgrade our municipalities" and thinks a system of yearly revision of permanent electoral lists would improve the current enumeration system.

Unfortunately for ineligible students, no changes to the electoral regulations will come soon enough to let them exercise their right to vote November 4.



Desperation grows in Southwest

by Heidi Miller

Sitting along the Lachine Canal, the old working-class neighbourhoods of Southwest Montréal were once a hub of manufacturing and industrial activity.

But with changing technological needs, activity slowed down, and outdated factories shut their doors. Now, a whopping 55 per cent of the Southwest's residents live below the poverty line.

The situation is desperate, said Claude Rondeau, a worker at ODAS, a welfare aid association. The number of people living on welfare is more than twice Montréal's average rate of ten per cent.

"Sometimes we feel completely helpless," Rondeau said. "People come and see us every day, looking for help. But there's not much we can do."

According to a 1989 report by CREESOM, a group created to study the Southwest economic situation, Pointe Saint-Charles, Saint-

Henri and Little Burgundy are in dire economic straits. Griffintown, Ville-Émard and Cote Saint-Paul have slightly higher levels of employment.

Industry is slow to move back in the area. Land speculators have bought the vacated lots and gentrification is slowly moving in.

The middle class has been pushed out by lack of affordable housing, said Robert Gagnon, president of the Association des gens d'affaires du sud-ouest. Middle-income earners cannot afford to stay in subsidized low-income housing that is salary-indexed.

In the last six years, the average rent increased from \$150 to \$400, Gagnon adds.

Saint-Henri is becoming increasingly split between high-income earners and the poor. The new clientele affects local businesses. The rich living in Saint-Henri do not shop in local stores and the poor can't afford to buy.

"There are two tendencies,"

Gagnon explains. "There are merchants who are adapting to the changes and others who haven't."

He said merchants must learn how to cater to the new class moving into the neighbourhood. The Atwater Food Market is a case in point; it provides the kinds of products the wealthier classes prefer.

But the poor cannot afford Brie or Camembert.

Charlotte Sabbah, director of Alliance Against Hunger, said hunger is on the rise in Southwest Montréal. Her food bank coalition has been struggling to meet the demand for food.

The Québec government's recent welfare reform law, Bill 37, has made things worse. More than 82 000 welfare recipients had their monthly cheques cut by as much as \$100 last August.

"Now it's extreme," Sabbah said. "Demand has doubled and tripled."

A great number also live on the edge of poverty, Sabbah said. With

uncertain financial times, their situation is precarious.

Many Southwest community groups say the solution is creating jobs and teaching skills.

"We need to catch those who are laid off and retrain them," Gagnon said. "And those without work need job training."

But to create jobs, employers have to be attracted to the area.

Some efforts by community groups and local politicians in the last four years have been successful. After the CREESOM economic investigation, a group came together to work on bringing industry back to the Southwest.

Also, the municipal government has attracted a developer, promising \$330 million over the next five years for industrial development.

"The municipal government has to get involved actively because the federal and provincial governments have simply washed their hands of the situation," said ODAS's Rondeau.

DC fights poverty

by Kelly Keith

Poverty is a major and rapidly growing problem in Montréal, and requires the municipal government to play a central role in finding a solution, according to Sam Boskey of the Democratic Coalition.

"Forty per cent of the provinces poor live in Montréal, while the city makes up only 15 per cent of the total Québec population," Boskey said.

Tommy Kulezjk of Sun Youth estimated that over the last five or six years the poverty level has risen around 10 per cent annually.

However, this year the rate of increase "has gone crazy" due to the economic downturn, Kulezjk said. More than one hundred families a day now visit Sun Youth's food bank, including a growing number of students and young people.

Boskey criticized the current municipal administration for a lack of leadership. He cited the city's conspicuous absence in the fight against the provincial welfare reform act, Bill 37.

But MCM executive member John Gardiner denied the charge, saying the city "never hid the fact that (it was) against the bill," and noted a resolution passed by city council denouncing Bill 37.

Gardiner also said that income redistribution is a federal and provincial responsibility which should not be sloughed off on the city. The city's primary responsibility is to acknowledge poverty, and to lobby both levels of government for increased assistance, he said.

City anti-poverty programs, including low-cost housing and funding of local groups, have also been implemented, Gardiner said.

Although Boskey conceded that income redistribution is a federal/provincial responsibility, he feels the city can do more "to ease the burden of the poor."

Boskey suggested that specific measures could include maintaining low fees for public services such as transit, libraries and recreational facilities. Also, the city should provide more low-cost housing and support school food programs, he said.

The city's performance in tackling these problems has been inhibited by the lack of a coherent social policy. "Although money is being channeled to some community organizations, it is being done in an arbitrary, ad-hoc way," said Boskey.

He said the Democratic Coalition wants clear criteria set out for the distribution of civic resources.

Kulezjk compared the role of the city to that of a quarterback: "There are a lot of players trying to fight poverty, but you need someone to call the plays."

Kulezjk said the city should communicate and coordinate with grassroots activists. However, he also noted that politicians soon forget the extravagant promises they make at election time.

Down and out in St-Henri

by Heidi Miller

The election race in Saint-Henri is strangely warm. Most candidates are polite about each other and some even exchange praise.

The old working-class district, with a population of 18 355, is bordered to the north by the City of Westmount, to the west by the Turcot Interchange and the Ville-Marie Expressway, to the south by the Lachine Canal and to the east by Georges-Vanier Blvd.

Unemployment and welfare rates are higher than the Montréal average. Many residents have little formal education and 37 per cent of families are headed by a single parent. The population is mainly francophone.

Hot issues

Poverty

Saint-Henri is part of Southwest Montréal where 20 000 jobs have been lost in the last 20 years. Community groups in Saint-Henri say the situation is desperate. Emergency relief organizations are straining under the pressure of recent provincial welfare cuts. Jobs and job training are needed as well as the revitalization of abandoned industrial areas.

The environment

Although old factories left highly-polluted lots behind, most

of the environmental debate focuses on neighbourhood recycling and greenspaces. A grassroots group of residents formed Ecology Saint-Henri last spring. They say the municipal government has been stalling for too long on the issue of recycling. There is only one place in Saint-Henri where people can deposit their recyclable materials.

Demographic change

Near downtown, Saint-Henri is becoming an attractive place for the wealthier set. Homes have been renovated in some areas and rents have increased, pushing long-time residents out of their homes. There are pockets of poverty in other parts of the district and concern that the poor are being ghettoized.

The Candidates

Germain Prigent (Independent)

Prigent, the incumbent, has been councillor in the district for 12 years. The only Civic Party member who survived the 1986 MCM electoral wave, Prigent decided to go independent when his party changed leaders.

He owns a men's clothes store on Notre-Dame St. and said he has a good pulse on the community. His campaign platform relies on his experience and knowledge of Saint-Henri.

"I'm not making any electoral

promises. Excuses are always easy to find when a promise is broken."

Germaine Vaillancourt (Montréal Citizen's Movement)

Vaillancourt lives in Rosemont, but she says she has an affinity for the problems the district's poor face.

Vaillancourt says she comes from a working-class family and has raised five children. At forty, she went back to school and now has a master's degree in political science. She works for women's issues and has been a MCM supporter for many years.

She said there are security problems in some areas of Saint-Henri and economic and social issues need to be addressed. Working with community-based groups, said Vaillancourt, will be the best way to meet residents' needs.

"Saint-Henri's portrait resembles me. I'm a community-oriented person."

Marlene Lavoie (Ecology Montréal)

One of the founders of Ecology Saint-Henri, Lavoie decided to run for council because she is fed up with the city's lack of ecological will. She wants curbside pick-up and more green bells for recyclable goods in the district. Parks and playgrounds also need to be cleaned up, she said. The mother of one has no political experience, but she says

she's learning to enjoy going door-to-door.

"People really want to talk," she said, "and they have lots to say."

But if elected, she won't concentrate only on the environment.

"I know there are other problems in Saint-Henri and I would work with community-based groups to find solutions."

Louise Brisson (Civic Party)

Brisson is a branch manager of a Montréal financial institution.

Brisson, who lives in Little Burgundy, a few blocks from Saint-Henri, says the best way to create jobs is to attract businesses with low taxes.

She says environmental education in high-schools and decent nutrition for young children are also needed.

Brisson says she decided to go into politics because she has been very fortunate in life.

"I felt now is the time to give back to people."

Diane Boyer (Municipal Party)

Boyer could not be reached for comment at press time. According to a local paper, Boyer is a mother and a freelance writer. Boyer sees public security and the environment as important issues.

Parties come and go, but rhetoric is forever

by Kathleen Hickey

Montréal municipal election issues have changed little in the last eight years, but the parties seem to be leaping on the same bandwagons more and more as the years go by.

In 1982, a young buck ran against the totalitarian Jean Drapeau, whose Civic Party had been in power for twenty-two years. The new candidate's name was Jean Doré. His party, the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM), ran a strongly issue-based campaign.

Doré promised a downtown development plan and low-cost housing. He called for the abolition of the water tax and reforms to Montréal property taxes, and came out with clear views on allophone rights and women's issues.

QPIRG maps City Hall maze

by Cheryl Devoe

Fighting City Hall will be easier with the help of research being done by McGill's Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG).

QPIRG is compiling a lobbyist's guide to how the city works. A half dozen QPIRG researchers are studying the best ways for the concerned citizen to get action on pressing issues in the community.

The guide will give tips on where to start when approaching a specific urban issue. It will also suggest strategies for gaining grassroots support.

To get what you want out of the City "you have to know what you're doing before going in there," said QPIRG staff person and research coordinator Karen Herland.

She said the sheer size of the City's staff makes it difficult to wade through the bureaucracy.

"There are 12 000 City of Montréal employees; and who knows what they all do," Herland said. "We want to help people through the maze of City Hall."

QPIRG aims to provide a comprehensive guide to the City, outlining the socio-economic status of every sector. The study will provide insight on how the City functions, who to consult for specific needs, and most importantly, who can be held responsible for what.

Profiles of City Councillors will indicate the most approachable person to deal with on a given issue. Profiles of community groups will provide a list of consultants with experience fighting the system.

Herland also wants to include synopses of past projects, so that people don't waste time trying the same approach twice.

This project is being researched by volunteers. Anyone interested in contributing to the study can attend a meeting in the Eaton Building on Tuesday, November 6, at 16h00. Or phone Karen Herland at 398-7432.

However, he placed the most emphasis on democratization and decentralization at City Hall. Doré's 1982 line was: "inform, consult, referendum, decision."

The MCM's progressive platform was pretty much mirrored by the Municipal Action Group, led by Henri-Paul Vignola. They also sought an open City Hall, tax reforms, and urban planning. But they put less emphasis on women, minorities and the environment, concentrating instead on economic development.

Drapeau won the 1982 election. But after another four years in office he gave the leadership of the Civic Party over to civil engineer Claude Dupras for the 1986 election campaign.

That election was a real conflagration of issues. Doré again ran for the MCM, with a platform that relied heavily on neighbourhood democracy, while the Civic Party revealed its agenda in full for the first time in twenty-six years.

If the MCM and Municipal Action Group platforms blurred in 1982, this time around it was the MCM and the Civic Party who were running similar campaigns — with a few important differences.

Both parties wanted tax reform, but the Civic Party pointed to a ceiling on property taxes while the MCM promised lower homeowner taxes for senior citizens.

The MCM wanted to implement a master plan for Montréal, with a strong emphasis on greenspace and low-cost housing, Doré said. He "deplored" the destruction of Chinatown by re-zoning under Drapeau. The protection of the mountain was an important point, as was a promised freeze on public transport fares.

Dupras agreed a master plan was

needed in Montréal, but envisioned more development. He also wanted to include Mirabel Airport in his plan; the white elephant would be linked to Dorval by a rapid transport system. He was the only candi-

to Doré's plan — he said prostitution would flourish under such conditions.

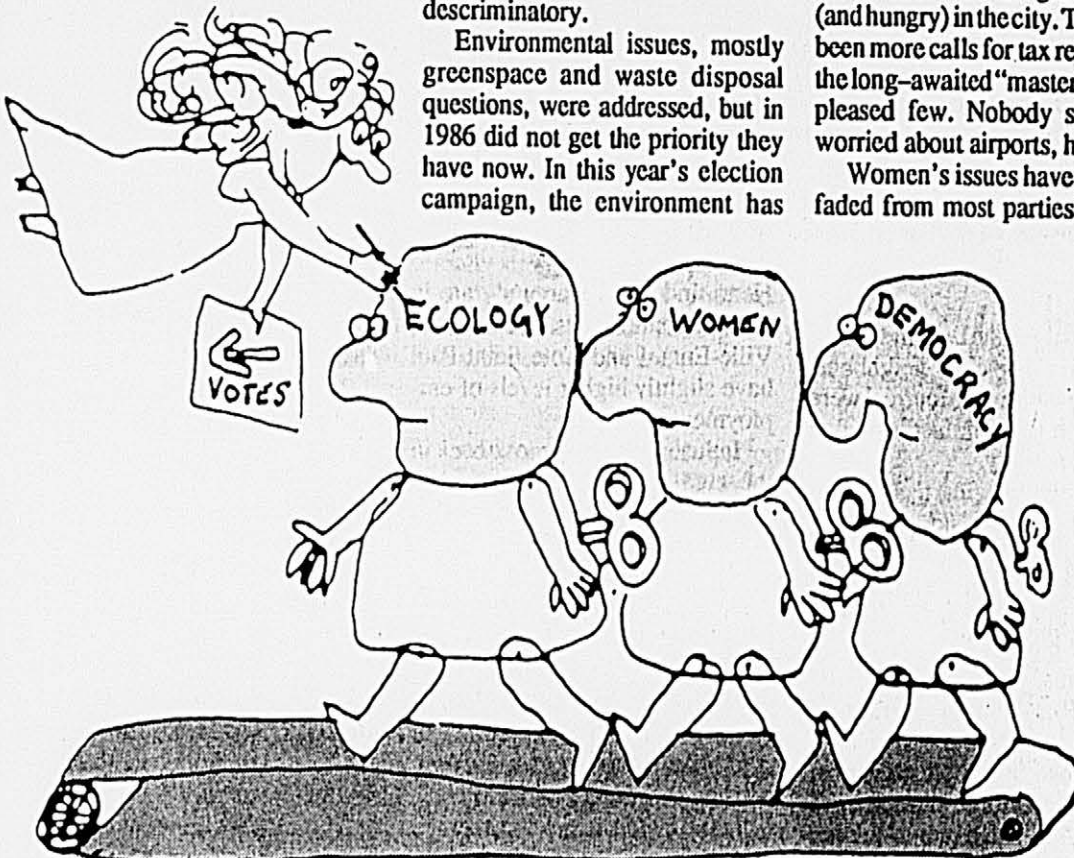
Affirmative action for women and minorities was also on the MCM agenda. The Civic Party, however, called affirmative action discriminatory.

Environmental issues, mostly greenspace and waste disposal questions, were addressed, but in 1986 did not get the priority they have now. In this year's election campaign, the environment has

Drapeau called for democratic reform when he ran for mayor in 1960.)

Critics charge the MCM has failed in its low-cost housing initiative, and that it hasn't responded to the needs of the ever-growing poor (and hungry) in the city. There have been more calls for tax reform, and the long-awaited "master plan" has pleased few. Nobody seems too worried about airports, however.

Women's issues have strangely faded from most parties' primary



date to say the controversial airport was a good thing.

Women's issues were extremely important in the 1986 election. Doré called for the regulation of pornography in the city, while Dupras was reticent about curbing commercial liberties. Dupras said the most he could promise was displays that hid the covers of magazines.

Doré came out for decriminalized (as opposed to legalized) prostitution. He wanted to help prostitutes, not prosecute them, he said. Dupras was vehemently opposed

been every party's prime concern.

Mayor Doré has been roundly criticized for his inaction on curbside recycling. Greenspace, water fluoridation and an anti-smoking by-law are other important environmental issues this time around.

Doré's election promises seem to be coming back to haunt him, as parties on both left and right seem to have adopted much of the MCM's earlier platforms. All, including the Civic Party, are calling for democratization and a long-overdue code of City Hall ethics. (Of course, even

rhetoric, despite an increase in violence against women and women's poverty in Montréal. Prostitution is still an issue, but this time it's perceived as part of a 'crime problem', and bracketed with drug abuse.

And as the Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal (mostly composed of ex-MCM folk) take over the MCM's old far-left democratization agenda, Jean Doré may find out this year that in municipal politics, what goes around comes around.

Mayoralty challengers deface 'postcard' Doré

by Erik Rutherford

Even though polls give the ruling Montréal Citizens' Movement a big lead going into Sunday's municipal election, opposing mayoral candidates say a strong opposition can keep the City on its toes.

Recent news that the MCM misappropriated funds is a good reason for having a strong opposition, says Pierre-Yves Melançon, mayoral candidate for the Democratic Coalition.

Montréal mayor Jean Doré was caught using 21 city employees as campaign-workers. But Melançon said, "He fired only ten as a good gesture. This violated laws governing campaign financing."

"The Montréal Citizens' Movement administration does not use funds properly," said Melançon, an MCM dissident. "Before the '86 election, he (Doré) promised improved transportation. But in the last four years nothing has been done."

The candidate for the White Elephant party said the MCM hasn't made social issues a priority.

"We have to have a strong dy-

namic opposition to tell the MCM to make war against poverty," he said. "There should be high humanity in government or the next century will be awful in Montréal."

Doré is ahead in the polls by a huge margin, favoured by 83 per cent of decided voters, according to a recent CROP-La Presse survey.

Doré gets his harshest criticism for not keeping his 1986 election promises. The MCM promised a new democratic style of city politics, in which all people would have a say in city hall decisions.

"They used to represent left-wing policies. People voted for this — not because he makes a beautiful postcard," Bédard added.

Marvin Rotrand, a Democratic Coalition candidate in Snowdon, said, "Everything is still done in private and city council is still cunuch." The MCM is just a "more stylish, slick autocracy."

Nicole Gagnon-Larocque, mayoral candidate of the Civic Party and in a distant second in the polls, accuses Doré of "quasi-democracy."

According to Doré, newly formed district advisory committees have given Montréalers "plenty of opportunity to have their say." He says the district committees can send their recommendations to the executive committee.

Poverty and the environment

The MCM's record on poverty and the environment has also come under fire. "The MCM seemed to want help the poor, but in the last four years they have done nothing," Bédard said. "Forty per cent of all Québécois on welfare live in Montreal. Twenty per cent of Montrealers live in poverty."

Poverty leads to more crime, he says. Montréal has the second most crime-ridden subway in the world, according to a recent Public Transport Commission report. For each 100 million passengers, 868 crimes are committed. Only New York has more with 1059.

"Doré is planting flowers instead of tackling poverty," says Gagnon-Larocque, of the Civic party.

Alain André, leader of the Municipal Party, says the city needs what he described only as a plan for "social and economical integration." He wants to establish a housing program and a rent-subsidy program. "We have to put Montréal back on the path of economic prosperity," he says.

Nothing has been done to help the environment, especially regarding Montréal's number one polluter: cars.

Guy Chartrand, president of Transport 2000 Québec, a public transport lobby group, says the MCM has failed in its promise to provide a less intrusive automobile presence downtown.

Critics say Doré's proposed one-dollar surcharge on downtown parking is not enough. "This will not discourage anyone from driving into the city," says André, who proposes that the city convert gas-run vehicles to cleaner natural gas.

Three independant candidates are also running for mayor — Michel Dugre, Abraham Weizfeld and Patricia Metivier.

Homeless are victims of campaign crossfire

The recent electoral ruckus in the Peter McGill riding pits displaced MCM housing advocate Arnold Bennett against fellow front-page bickerer and city councillor Nick Auf der Maur. But the issue beneath the blur of cheap shots is housing — and, more indirectly, the homeless.

by Danny Clarke and Kenneth King

There are roughly ten to fifteen thousand people in Montréal without a home or decent place to sleep, the bulk of them in the eastern downtown sector of the city. Most take refuge in shelters, and some risk arrest squatting in boarded buildings and warehouses, but all suffer grave indignity and injustice.

The Doré administration, in power since 1986, has often spoken of the need for shelters and support services for the homeless and for battered women. Their record hasn't been sterling, however.

Dans La Rue, an organization that distributes food and friendship to people living on Montréal's downtown streets, is trying to open an emergency shelter for homeless children. But the City isn't being as helpful as they'd like.

"I wrote to them, asking them if we could get together and discuss the possibilities of getting a building, specifically for a shelter," Dans La Rue's Margaret Wilshire said. She sent copies to Mayor Doré, Michael Fainstat, John Gardiner and Marcel Sevigny — all members of Montréal's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is essentially

in complete control over city policy-making.

"I had heard, two nights in a row on the news, Mayor Doré speaking about their commitment to provide more places for the homeless," she said. But that commitment has been well-nigh invisible. "I haven't gotten a response yet. That the letter was sent out October 18."

"They're probably too busy, caught up in campaigning, and it's an issue they don't want to deal with before the election," Wilshire said.

Dans La Rue hasn't been alone among downtown shelters who have met with a lack of support from City Hall. Two others, Dernier Recours and Chez Doris, have been starved of funds and, in the case of Dernier Recours, threatened with closure.

"The City has done some things, but they've got to move faster," says Bennett, whose ideological ties with the MCM seem patchy at best.

"The left-wing parties will say that the city isn't moving fast enough and the right-wing parties don't pay attention to the issue at all. Nick Auf der Maur wanted to close

down Dernier Recours. That was his big *chevre de bataille* a couple of years ago."

Dernier Recours was originally a downtown referral centre but has been transformed into a makeshift shelter, one not entirely equipped to handle the task.

"It wasn't fulfilling the function it was supposed to," Bennett said, "and people were sleeping on the floor and so on. What we needed was to get Québec to commit the social services to the additional shelters and beds. Eventually Québec did agree to this, under pressure. We're starting to see some improvement."

Bennett said the City is especially in need of more beds and shelters for women. "The city has made some effort. A number have been opened under this administration, whereas there was nothing before," he said.

Chez Doris, is a women's shelter in the downtown area. Funded mainly by Centraide, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and donations from many religious communities, the shelter operates on a suffocating \$180 000 budget.

Maria Day, president of Chez Doris, would like to see subsidies for the shelter which is helping to feed and clothe people who would otherwise be on the street.

"We average up to sixty women a day and many of these would go without food and would be spending a lot of their time on the street instead of having a shelter to go to in the daytime," she said.

"We would expect subsidies to help us in terms of our general operations and also some kind of direct subsidy or direct service — because we're spending almost fifteen hundred dollars a year in garbage services."

Mayor Jean Doré plans to visit the shelter this afternoon with Bennett to look over Chez Doris' application for a government grant.

"We'll see what happens," said Day. "For me, the idea that we have to pay for garbage when that money should be put to better use

is utterly ridiculous."

Influencing the market

Another side of the problem deals with the decrease in rooming houses and access to affordable rent. Recognizing that homelessness has increased, Democratic Coalition councillor Marvin Rotrand said city housing policies could better address the problem.

"The city has certain controls over zoning, over the type of construction it encourages — the city has some sort of control over the market. If the market was completely unregulated, and everybody went for as much property as they could have, housing would be unaffordable for the vast bulk of Montréalers," he pointed out.

"What happens in economic times that are difficult, and at times when social services and welfare are being cut back, is obviously there's a threat of more homelessness," he said. "The city hasn't particularly taken any new initiatives on the matter over the last number of years."

Rooming houses once served a fairly large low-income clientele, but many have been lost. As well, city policy over the past few years has resulted in a loss of moderate and low income housing near the city core.

"We've also had the instances where some neighbourhoods have been cleared for development and the development never occurred — like Overdale, for example," said Rotrand.

"Now, that doesn't necessarily contribute to homelessness itself, but because it removes affordable housing stock, it makes the problem worse."

All candidates seem to agree, if their campaign material is to be believed, that homelessness is a problem that must be dealt with immediately.

But workers at downtown shelters aren't holding their breath while they wait for help.

"I think after the election all this will be put aside anyway," said Wilshire.

MCM dissident fights for tenants' rights

MCM councillor Arnold Bennett is running for re-election in the Peter McGill riding. Well known for his strong stands on housing issues, Bennett was first elected to council in 1974, fresh out of the *McGill Daily*. He has been re-elected twice since then, in 1982 and 1986.

Bennett first involved himself with tenants' rights in the 70s. He is largely responsible for Montréal's virtually unequalled moratorium on condo-conversion, which has held strong in Québec since 1975 (mighty, in comparison with the one or two-year life spans of moratoriums in other north american cities).

The elections in the Peter McGill district have come down to a stand-off between Bennett and Nick Auf der Maur of the Municipal Party. Both Ecology Montréal and the Democratic Coalition have agreed not to run candidates in Peter McGill, so as not to split Bennett's supporters. The *Daily* talked to Bennett about the MCM and Sunday's vote.

Daily: What does the cooperation you've received from the Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal say to you about the importance of these elections in your riding?

Bennett: We all want to make sure that Auf der Maur isn't on council next time and tenants are protected.

Lets say the MCM gets in this time, and Auf der Maur is there, but I'm not. Who is going to stand up when, say, John Gardiner tries to get something through that isn't entirely progressive?

What are the big issues in this election?

Tenants' rights, because I'm so closely associated with it, and Auf der Maur has

taken such a stupid position on condo conversion. In the '86 elections the Civic Party tried to take a stand against the moratorium on conversion but we slammed them on it and they had the brains to back off. Over 75 per cent of Montréal residents are tenants. But Nick is so enamoured with his Thatcherism that he doesn't see the implications of this.

The other issue is accessibility. Everyone knows that I work all year round, and Auf der Maur is only available in election time.

Students from two universities — McGill and Concordia — are concentrated in your riding. How do they fit into this campaign?

Students, obviously, are tenants and not homeowners. In fact, 90 per cent of students are tenants. The question of developing student housing is obviously an issue for them. But before we see this as an election issue we need to see some results. A lot of work has been done with the idea of student run bed and breakfasts. Projects we have under study would result in 350 new beds in the next year.

Do you have any confidence that the MCM, if elected for another term, could come any closer to fulfilling its mandate? They have disappointed a lot of people in the last four years.

What has been so frustrating is that when the MCM took power, the whole structure of the municipal government was oriented towards Drapeau's style of government. We had to turn things around.

A lot of the groundwork done over the last four years has been real work — it just hasn't been visible to the public. In the next two years we will see what the MCM can do.



MCM candidate Arnold Bennett stares down Nick Auf der Maur.

Some things have started working already. The City's housing corporation (SHDM) is purchasing apartment buildings for low-income tenants. In the last year it has acquired 2500 units, and another 1500 will be bought in 1991. This is going to spectacularly transform some of the poorest areas in the city.

It took a while to get the machine running. And certain people get into power and feel too comfortable in the shoes of the old regime. The point is that you have to be constantly vigilant.

How do you reconcile a party with elected representatives as diverse as yourself and John Gardiner?

Some people try to portray Gardiner as the great satan of Montréal politics, when really he's only a little devil.

Gardiner made a mistake with Overdale, but he doesn't want to admit it, and that makes him look bad. But by the same token, he's the person responsible for the SHDM apartment acquisitions.

What is at stake for your riding in the upcoming elections?

Every time there has been an issue where Auf der Maur has had to choose between the interests of tenants and developers or tenants and landlords, he's sided against the tenants. The people in this riding know where he stands, and where I stand.

Basically this election is a referendum on whether we want tenants' rights, or whether we want to sell tenants up the river to landlords.

Women confront MCM's Cousineau

by Heidi Modro

Canadian University Press

(Montréal)—It was supposed to be Léa Cousineau's big moment.

As caretaker of the women's dossier in the Doré administration, Cousineau was sitting with candidates from all the municipal parties at a panel discussion on women's issues last week.

A beaming Cousineau delivered a seven-minute speech crowning her achievements as a member of the Montreal Citizens' Movement administration.

Her smile quickly faded when members of the audience began questioning her about the MCM's inaction on the problems of poverty, violence against women and lack of affordable daycare facilities in the city.

Women confronted Cousineau with figures that showed that more than one third of Montreal families are headed by single mothers, while the average woman barely lives above the poverty line.

When asked to comment on the recent rash of spousal homicides, Cousineau quickly remarked that not all of the murders took place on the island of Montreal.

Mona Forrest, director of Montréal's Women's Centre, said she was shocked at the response.

"I couldn't believe she would be so insensitive," said Forrest, who organized the panel discussion. "Here you had the woman who is supposed to be the champion of women's rights at city hall saying she doesn't care about 20 women who were murdered just because they weren't all living within the jurisdiction of her bureaucracy."

Forrest said that attitude has become typical of the MCM's administration attitude towards women.

"Cousineau doesn't seem to be visibly fighting for women's issues within city hall," she said. "Her preoccupations are very bureaucracy and structure oriented. Whenever someone criticized her about something, she would just answer that you couldn't do things because you couldn't bypass a certain regulation."

Yolande Cohen, one of the panelists at the meeting, said it was obvious Cousineau was becoming increasingly uncomfortable during the evening.

"I had the impression that the women's dossier has been put on ice at city hall and that it wasn't a priority on anyone's list," said Cohen, who is also a member of the newly-formed Montréal Ecologique party.

Although she doesn't expect to win in her Plateau Mont-Royal district, Cohen said she decided to run for the sake of getting women's issues on the electoral agenda.

"Cousineau was essentially telling everyone at the meeting that she was taking care of everything and that this wasn't an election for women's groups to get involved in," she said. "And of course, none of the other parties had anything to say, so someone has to come up with some kind of opposition position."

Many believed the MCM's 1986 election

win signalled a change from the 25 years of inaction on women's issues under Jean Drapeau's regime.

The party's 1986 political programme was chock-full of pledges to increase the number of women's shelters, decriminalize prostitution and set up special anti-violence squads for women who were sexually assaulted or victims of wife battering.

In the three-page special chapter on women's issues, there was also a promise to attack pornography by regulating the display of outdoor pornographic material, and a commitment to open up more jobs for women who wanted to enter blue collar professions.

The MCM also vowed to repair the injustices of pay inequity within city hall.

Four years later, most of the MCM's original platform has been dropped.

And the party no longer has a special women's committee, as it did before the 1986 elections.

A record number of 15 women were elected to council. Half of the executive council was made up of women, although the most senior positions—president, vice-president and leader in council—are still held by men.

And under Cousineau's helm, the MCM has kept some of the more mainstream promises on women's issues, such as asking the provincial government to give it the right to regulate pornographic material in magazine shops and on commercial signs.

"The way they treat women's issues is typical of the way they have watered down their positions on all issues," said Forrest. "Now that they're in power and there is no opposition, they don't care."

But Léa Cousineau's political attaché said the MCM re-evaluated its party platform after it was voted in because many of their promises were the jurisdiction of provincial and federal responsibility.

"We didn't want to let other levels of government off the hook," she said.

Thériault says the MCM administration can boast many achievements since it came to power.

"You have to remember we had to start with nothing when we got into office," Ginette Thériault said. "Women at city hall were only to be found at low-paying secretarial jobs. Our first priority has been to redress the situation within city hall."

A spokesperson for Action Travail des Femmes, a women's lobby group, said threats of being taken to the Human Rights Commission got the city to raise its blue collar hiring quota for women to 25 per cent in 1988 and 50 per cent in 1989.

"It was when we started putting enormous pressure on them that they actually began to respond," said Dominique Leclercq, a spokesperson for the women's group. "If it weren't for our lobbying, they probably would not have gotten pushed very far for any change."

While there are still no quotas for white collar workers, two of the six directors ap-

pointed to the city's civil service departments are women.

But Forrest said Cousineau is too preoccupied with what's going on inside city hall.

And even those changes are coming too slowly, she added.

"Sure there have been some improvements for women in city hall," Forrest said. "But most of us women don't live in city hall. What about the rest of us?"

Cohen said the only way to improve women's quality of life within the city is to set up a special permanent women's rights commission, which would not only consult with women, but would also be responsible for drawing up plans of action.

And eventually more power and money would have to be given to women's groups.

"There have been changes since the MCM has come to power, but none of them have been profound, nor will they ever have a widespread effect on women," she said.

If re-elected, the MCM plans to improve

quality of life for more Montréal women by following the recommendations of Le Collectif Femmes et Ville, a coalition of various women's groups.

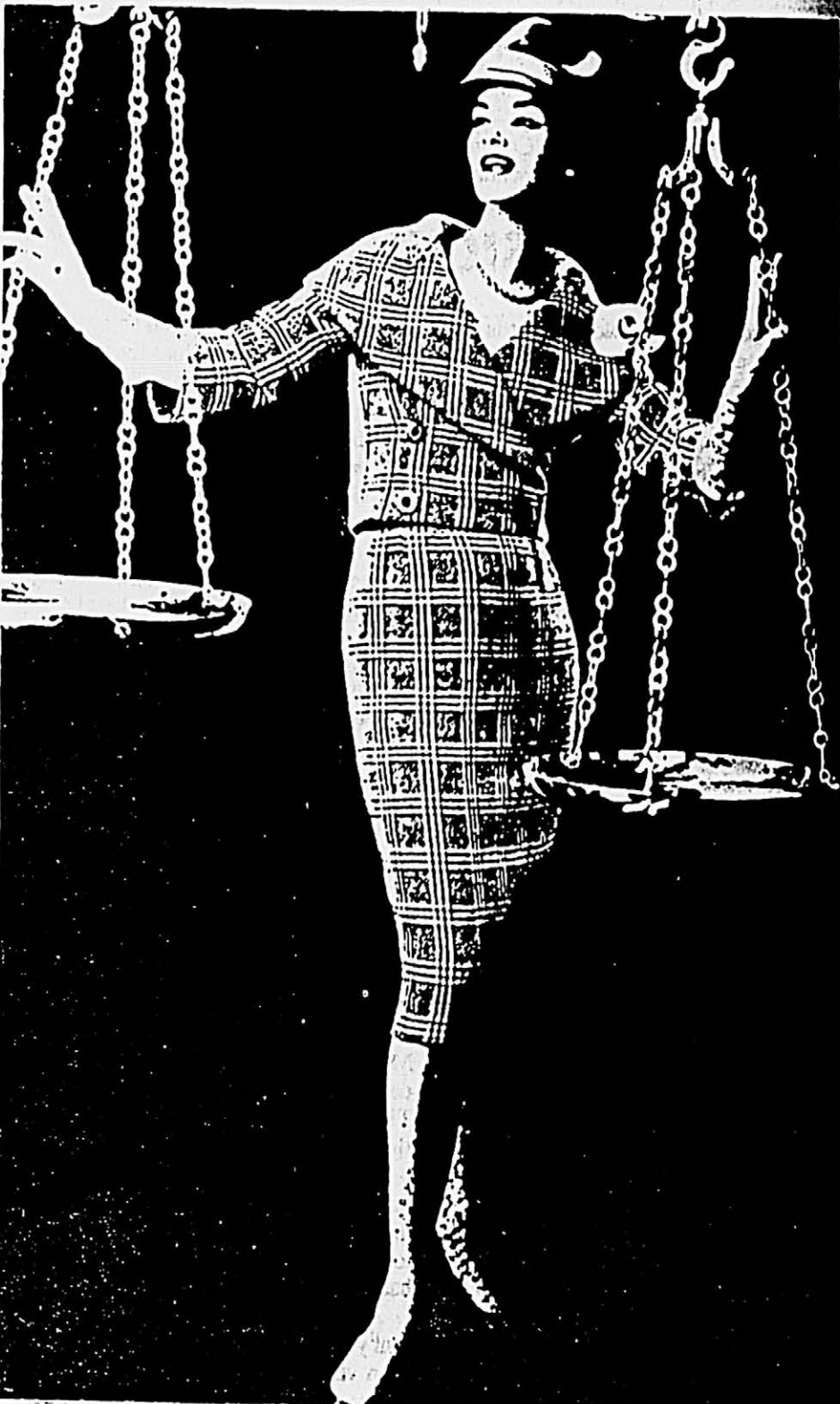
In a 1988 report, the coalition called on the city to increase women's accessibility to low cost housing, improve public security for women, and help fund daycare centres.

"This is a highly new and exciting project that would affect women in their daily lives," Thériault said.

But Forrest is skeptical about any far reaching changes the MCM can accomplish.

"If you do an analysis of how Cousineau works you notice that she picks one file, works on it for a while, then hunkers down on the next set of files. That method is only sure to guarantee us absolutely nothing," she said.

"I'm so fed up right now with politicians and how they ignore women that I think I'm going to start my own party next election."



Past tolerance: lesbians and gays in the City

by Carl Wilson

Montréal is no longer the fag and dyke Mecca it once was, say members of the city's gay and lesbian communities. Rising numbers of AIDS cases and incidents of homophobic violence have shattered the image of freedom and warmth that once attracted sexual non-conformists here from across Canada. Critics say the municipal government must take a leadership role to stem the tide of hate and disease.

In 1986, Raymond Blain of the Montréal Citizens' Movement became the first openly gay person elected to public office in Canada by winning a city council seat in Saint-Jacques, the area that includes the 'gay village'.

If Blain and the MCM haven't been able to counter homophobia, is it because they're not really trying? Some say yes, but Blain and his supporters suggest it's naive to think one councillor can solve all the problems of a fragmented and marginalized community in a city that still harbors many pockets of bigotry.

Blain's four years as a councillor have proved at least two things: one, gays can work together smoothly with straight administrators, perhaps even too smoothly; two, representation is no panacea.

Lesbian-feminist activist Paula Sypnowich does not expect Blain to handle her community's concerns. "He's a quietly gay man, and the village is not even my neighbourhood. It's not up to him to protect me from the cops," she says, in reference to a series of clashes lesbians and gays had with the city police last summer.

Police broke up a private party in old Montréal one night last July, and began bashing people when they realized most of the guests were queer. At subsequent demon-

strations held by the hastily-formed Lesbians and Gays against Violence (LGV), the MUC police made mass arrests and caused more injuries.

The violence was publicized across North America, and the police insignia has come to symbolize homophobia in Montréal. Perhaps as a result, both police violence and gay and lesbian concerns have emerged as side-issues in the current election campaign.

Michael Hendricks, of LGV and the AIDS activist coalition ACT-UP, particularly admires the strong stand taken by the Democratic Coalition, which has included gay issues prominently in its platform.

"This is the first time our issues have ever been discussed in a campaign," he says.

Sypnowich agrees. "Small as they may be, at least the Democratic Coalition sought us out and asked what we thought. I don't know if (mayor Jean) Doré really cares to do anything but placate mainstream sentiment with platitudes against violence."

Democratic Coalition candidate Daron Westman (Plateau Mont-Royal) says the city government "must automatically ask themselves what the gay and lesbian community thinks of every policy, and not just on specifically gay and lesbian issues."

Westman, himself a gay man, says Blain's approach has been inadequate. "That model is a dangerous one: If we work within the system, it says, we'll be 'in' just like straight people, and all have our little-condos. You don't get anywhere by assimilating. History proves that. You have to build power and then use your power base to pressure the system."

But Blain says he's accomplished a lot in his time, given relatively little support either within or outside the infrastructure. He indicates city action on AIDS, Gay Pride Day and

other celebrations, as well as support for the village gay and lesbian community centre, the gay businesspeople's guild and the LAMBDA queer youth volleyball team as concrete examples of progress.

In response to the police issue, Blain says he has been instrumental in sensitization work and inquiries into the summer's events. Most community members, however, say the wait for answers has been too long.

"What I found disturbing was the silence," Sypnowich says. "A station like Station 25 is a very scary place. There's a pigboy mentality there that no amount of 'affirmative action' could solve. The station should be broken up and its officers scattered though the city."

She points to the cool reception LGV got at a council meeting protest, including abu-

sive remarks from MCM councillor Léa Cousineau, to indicate the shallow quality of the Doré administration's response to homophobic violence.

"We got political gobbledygook," she says. "I don't have the solutions, but I want recognition that the problem's there."

"People find it very easy to write us off because they don't think we have the numbers to mobilize. I think the MCM has decided it's not politically expedient to go beyond vague statements," Sypnowich says.

Westman agrees. "A lot could be done just by showing solidarity, by associating yourself with the issue. If Doré would just come to an LGV meeting, for example, he'd be getting beyond 'tolerance' to a real change in attitude at City Hall."

... continued on page 13

MCM slow on HIV

by Joanne Pickel

The MCM administration has made some progress on the issue of HIV and AIDS, but has failed to take a leadership role, critics say.

Between ten and fifteen thousand Montréalers are estimated to be infected with HIV, the virus linked to AIDS — the highest concentration in the province.

What's more, sixty per cent of the cases of women with AIDS in Canada are in this province. A study conducted last year found that one in 394 women giving birth in Montréal was HIV infected, placing Montréal second in North America, right behind New York City (with one in 77).

The provincial government is largely responsible for health issues, but there are steps that can be taken at the municipal level. Some initiatives undertaken by the Doré government have been criticized as nothing more than belated window dressing.

The city's Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) administration adopted an AIDS 'intervention' policy in 1988. The policy says city employees who have AIDS or HIV should be able to continue to work without discrimination. It guarantees the city will not require a test for HIV as a precondition for employment.

The policy also requires the city to distribute AIDS and HIV information to its personnel and to offer special training to employees dealing most closely with HIV and AIDS, such as firefighters and lifeguards.

In addition, the MCM has introduced a by-law requiring the posting of public signs warning against the dangers of AIDS. The signs are to be posted in the washrooms of bars, public baths and some restaurants. But the poster campaign, passed at the last city council meeting before the elections, has been criticized as an empty political gesture.

The plans for the sign campaign were announced just before last year's Fifth International Conference on AIDS held in Montréal. The move has been derided by some who think the city was just trying to improve its image before playing host to some of the world's top AIDS researchers, community organizers and activists.

But MCM councillor Raymond Blain claimed the MCM provided more than symbolic support to the conference.

"It was because of the city's open attitude and contact with the organizers that people with AIDS were able to be such a strong presence at the conference," he said. He cited as evidence the MCM's assistance to Occasion Solidarité, a coalition of conference activists that later gave rise to ACT-UP, now

the most vocal of the city's AIDS action groups.

According to councillor Sam Boskey of the Democratic Coalition party, however, "The MCM has been timid in this area [HIV and AIDS awareness], as it has in many others." The Democratic Coalition has said the poster campaign is not explicit enough and thus provides too little information.

Boskey also said the poster campaign should include more than one design, appear in more languages than just French and be more widely distributed. "The idea of education is a good one, but the city's approach has been restrained and uptight," he said.

Beyond posters, the city needs to demonstrate that a concern about HIV and AIDS is legitimate and responsible. "The orientation of the Democratic Coalition is that the city should take on a larger social role because most community organizations have few resources," Boskey said.

Blain complained, "We are just a city administration, and we're trying to show a good example, but we can't fill all the gaps left by the government of Québec."

"We gave a whole building to C-SAM (Comité SIDA Aide Montréal), and we asked for the government's support. We're the only city in Canada, to my knowledge, to do things like that. But we could only do a bad job if we tried to do it all ourselves," he said.

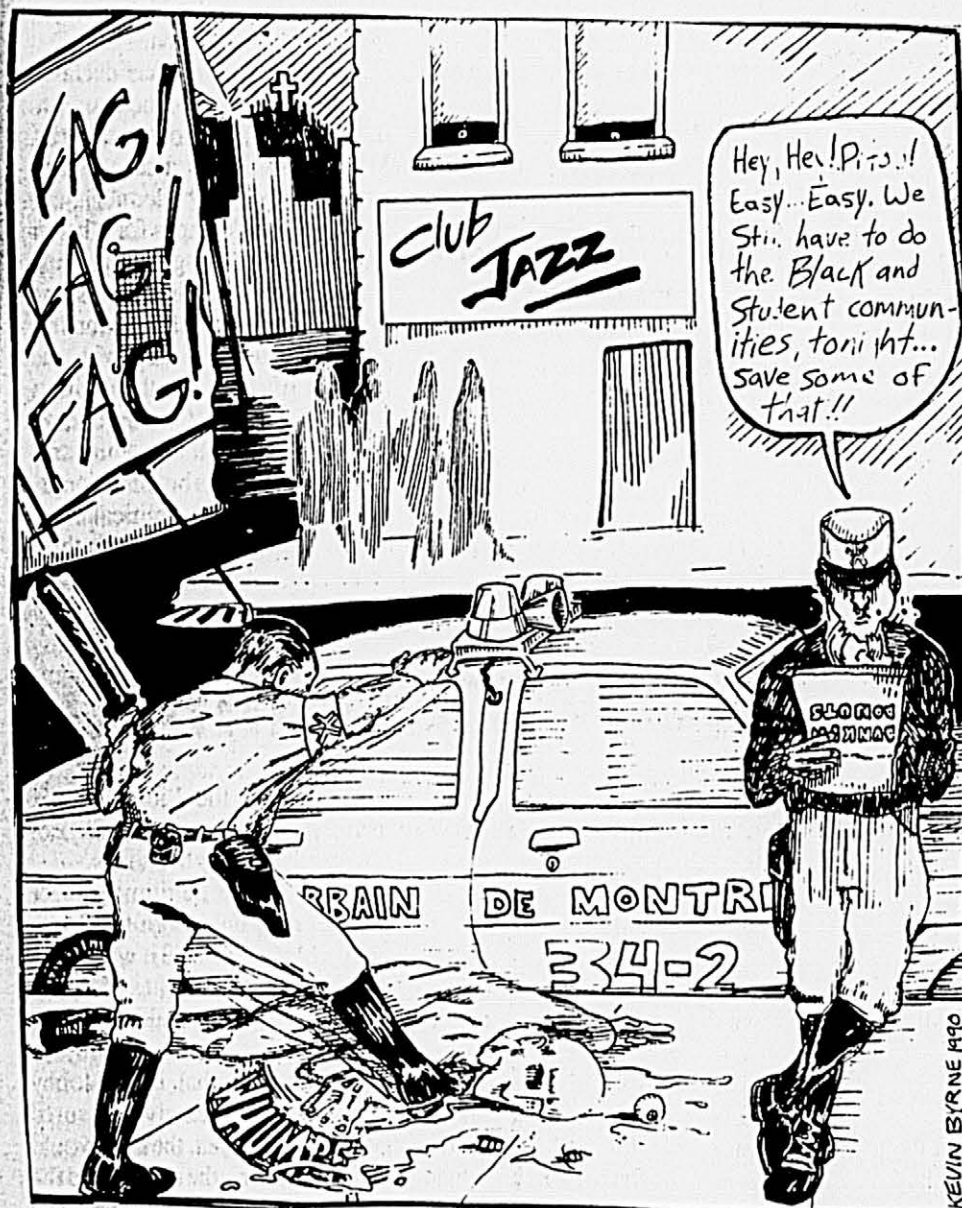
But Boskey said the city could do much more. For example, "The city should provide funding for materials and workshops [on HIV and AIDS] to be produced and made available to schools."

Boskey is also concerned because the city has no action plan to ensure adequate housing for people with AIDS. He said the city should actively provide community groups with technical expertise and resources.

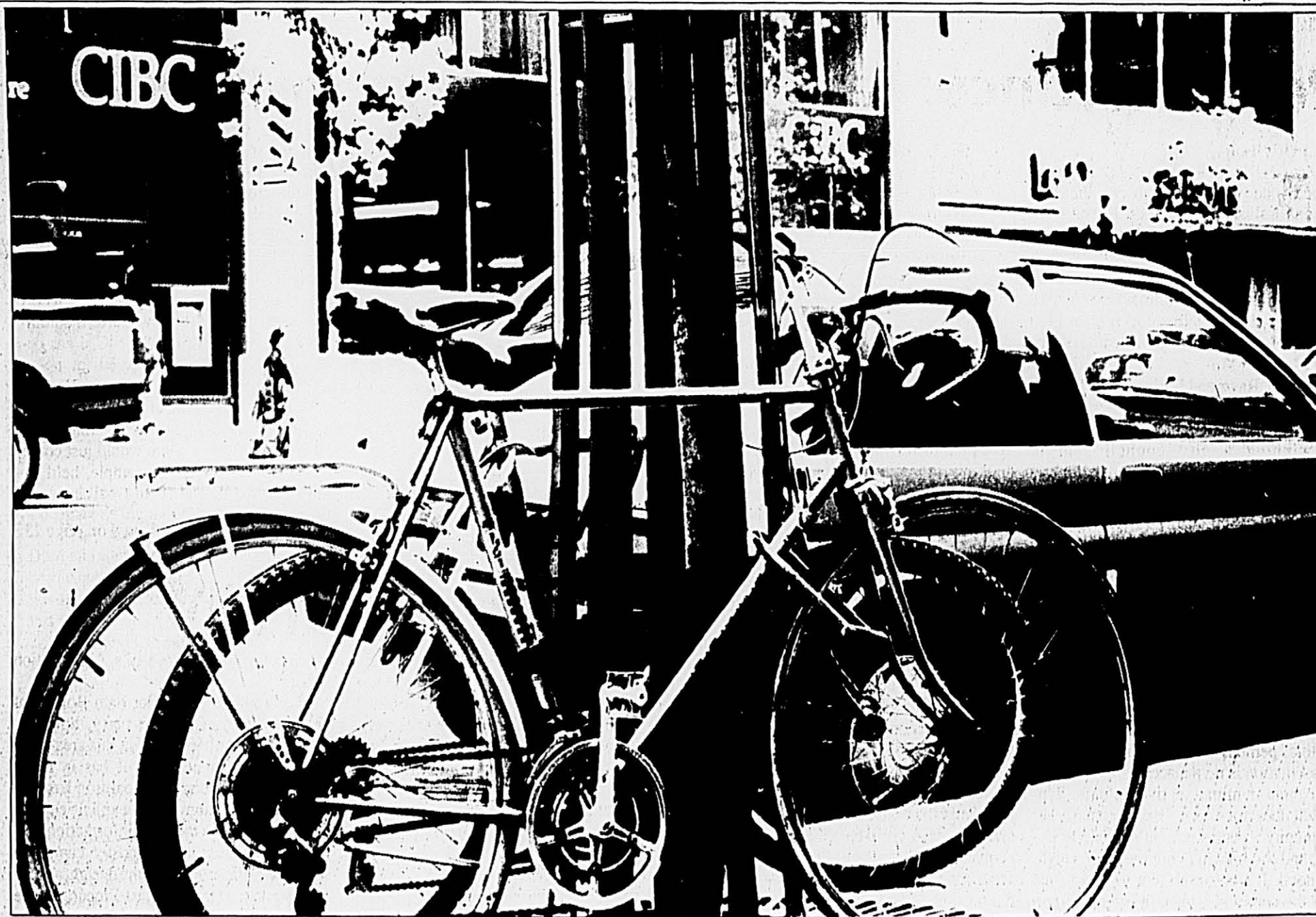
"There have been private initiatives that have taken up much community energy, but the problem is that the effort cannot be multiplied," he explained. According to Blain, the city has spent \$2 million supporting four houses for people with AIDS, but Boskey criticized the passive nature of the MCM's activity.

He said the MCM hasn't applied enough pressure on the provincial government to obtain greater funding for HIV and AIDS education and housing.

"There are all sorts of ways to apply pressure on Quebec through public statements and contact with civil servants," he said. "The municipal government should work to amplify the voices of those already doing the talking."



Police under the MCM have been accused of brutality and intolerance.



Public transportation: an epic mess

Montréal's transit system has been in a mess for ages. Budget deficits have led to constant fare hikes, instigating a vicious downward cycle: ridership declines, leading to less resources for services, and a further decline in ridership.

by Wayne Hiltz

The Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) was elected on a progressive platform in 1986, with improvement to public transit a key item. But it has done little to break the cycle of deteriorating services, opposition critics and transport lobby groups charge. Unkept promises include improved pedestrian safety and a network of reserved lanes for buses and bikes.

"There has been a real lack of achievements since the last election," said Pierre-Yves Melançon, the Democratic Coalition mayoral candidate and the party's transport critic. "The MCM has essentially managed the same situation as in the past."

In opposition, the MCM was vocal in its criticism of the previous Civic Party administration. But once in power its record was just as bad, said George Savoidakis, an ex-Civic Party councillor and now transit critic for the Municipal Party.

"What have we seen in the last four years?" he said. "The fees have increased, the quality of services has not improved at all, and they

have not found other sources of revenue," said the candidate for the west-end Loyola riding.

Inaction or what?

To the defense of the MCM's record came Abe Limonchik, a board member of the Montréal Urban Community Transport Commission (MUCTC) and MCM candidate in Cote-des-Neiges. The MCM is responsible for keeping fares below inflation, decreasing the proportion of riders' contribution to the MUCTC budget, opening the Snowdon-St Michel metro line in 1987, and improving train service for the west-island, he said.

The MUCTC also added 100 000 hours of bus transit in 1988, though it was unable to meet the same target last year because of a management-labour dispute.

But according to Marie Beemans, vice-president of Transport 2000 in Québec, the real measure of an improved transit system is new services. She agreed the MCM has kept costs down, and praised its introduction of an inter-regional

pass connecting the South Shore and Laval. Still, the MCM stalled on reserved bus lanes, despite election promises.

Protests against a lane on Pie IX from Montreal-Nord merchants stalled one such scheme. Beemans said three other bus lanes recently built by the City are a positive step, but she was skeptical about the timing of the decision, so close to the election.

According to Claire Morissette, coordinator of the bike lobby group Le Monde à Bicyclette, there should be a lot more bus lanes especially on congested routes.

"It's absurd that 70 passengers in a bus should be blocked behind several cars with only one person in each," she said.

Because the government subsidizes each motorist by \$5000, ten times the subsidy for each transit user, the City should stop raising fares at the rate of inflation, Morissette said.

Dimitri Roussopoulos, the Ecology Montréal candidate in Jeanne Mance and long-time urban activist, suggested more radical changes.

"We must have a systematic and urgent reconstitution of a public transit system that rapidly ameliorates public health and contributes to turning around the ecological crisis," he said.

New fuels need to be developed of new fuels, along with new modes of transportation to replace the internal combustion engine, he said. Roussopoulos also wants Montréal

to imitate some European cities which have elaborate systems of one-way streets to discourage motorists from going downtown.

Break the Cycle?

Just last month, the MCM proposed creating a development fund for public transit. The new plan would provide new and improved services, and hopes to increase ridership by five per cent over the next five years. It would be funded by a \$1-a-day tax on parking spaces, estimated to bring in \$60 million a year.

Melançon said the parking tax could encourage people to use more public transport. But the proposal has run into strong opposition from Montréal suburban mayors, who

form a majority on the Montréal Urban Community which oversees the transit commission.

Mayor Jean Doré has declared he cannot implement the tax without the cooperation of the suburbs. Melançon said the measure risks being an electoral balloon.

Montréal's hopes for a better transit system through this parking tax may remain in limbo for some time. But the real chance for improvement may lie less with the political life of a tax than with a rebirth of a spirit of commitment.

"We don't want an administration of small clerks but of visionaries who embark on political challenges with people and risk their skins in the process," said Melançon.

Slow pedalling

Montreal's cycling policy suffers from the same bureaucratic slowness as its transit policy, according to Le Monde à Bicyclette's Claire Morissette.

"The MCM is only pedaling in first speed, far behind the people of Montréal who have a great enthusiasm for cycling," she said.

There are only nine new kilometres of bike paths since 1986, mostly from the path completed this year on Rachel Street. While applauding the Rachel bike path, Morissette was disappointed with the isolation and the short length of

the path near the Lionel-Groulx metro station. Work on a St. Zotique path will begin shortly.

Regarding the maritime path, or the "missing link" with the South Shore, Morissette said it was a very important achievement. Montréal has spent more than half the necessary funds to complete the project. But she added that if her lobby group had not heavily pressured governments to act, the City would still be sitting on the project and the "missing link" would still be missing.

MCM leaves ethnic issues in choppy waters

by Michael Dolenko

'Slow motion' might best describe the city's approach to ethnic issues, according to minority groups and opposition candidates running in Sunday's municipal elections.

They fault the ruling Montréal Citizens' Movement for its inaction on police-minority relations, hiring policy for city jobs, low-cost housing and job training.

Ethnic and racial minorities make up about 30 per cent of Montreal's population, divided up among over 80 racial and ethnic groups. But there isn't one city councillor of Chinese origin, nor a Pakistani attaché at the mayor's office. Meanwhile, Montreal's 4500-member police force has less than a dozen black officers.

"There have been improvements over the previous administration but there's still room for lots more," according to Pascual Delgado, director of the Montréal YMCA's Ethnic Minorities department. Delgado claimed the MCM has marginalized minority issues in its policies and ignored the multi-ethnic point of view.

The MCM administration has opened an 'intercultural bureau', where members of ethnic and racial minorities can get information on government services in several languages. The city has also passed a declaration against racism, established an advisory committee on cultural and racial affairs, and implemented an affirmative action program for city jobs.

Critics say many of these initiatives are half-measures. As 1986 mayoral candidate Kenneth Cheung, now of the Chinese Professional and Businesspersons' Association, observed, "Many of the MCM's changes are cosmetic public relations moves. Minorities don't have a day-to-day role in the city's functions. It's time visible minorities played at centre court, where decisions are made. City Hall is still very clandestine."

According to Cheung, the advisory committee is ineffective, and the employment equity program has not worked. The plan was to have 25 per cent of city jobs held by ethnic and cultural minorities by some unspecified date. But visible minorities continue to be underrepresented in high-level city positions, and they make up less than five per cent of the civil service as a whole.

According to Sam Boskey, candidate for the Democratic Coalition in the Decarie district, other problems with the employment equity plan are caused by a near hiring freeze at City Hall, and the plan's problematic definition of a 'minority'.

"They define cultural communities as people who aren't of British, French or Native origin," Boskey said. "Technically, that quota could be filled by white Europeans."

Boskey also commented on the City's advisory committee on

minority issues, established in March 1990 — four years after their election and a full 16 months after Anthony Griffin, a black youth, was shot by police. This sluggishness shows minority issues aren't a priority for the MCM, he said.

"The MCM has been playing lip service to minority concerns," Boskey said. "The mayor talks about racism to minority leaders, but the day Jean Dore talks about racism to the Chamber of Commerce, then I'll know it's being taken seriously."

Miracles and suicide

The YMCA's Delgado believes "The city's economic development and housing programs have to address the needs of minorities." As an example of insensitivity, he noted low-income housing is often built without taking into account the larger size of many immigrant families, with several generations living under the same roof.

Ivan Kumberbatch of the National Black Coalition of Montreal said the black community needs more low-cost housing, and better relations with the police. The police and civil service should hire more visible minorities, he said.

Adrian Maris, of the Hellenic Community of Montreal, said more job training programs would help immigrants and minorities. "The city should put pressure on the federal and Québec governments to face the problem of unskilled labour," Maris said.

But miracles can't be expected to happen overnight, according to Sybil Murray-Denis, the MCM candidate facing Boskey. Minority members will penetrate high-level city jobs only if minorities get more involved in municipal government, she said.

"The MCM has taken steps in the right direction," said Murray-Denis. "The situation needs to be improved, but changing government is like trying to turn around a huge ocean-liner in choppy waters."

Murray-Denis said her party has opened the door to minority candidates. "The fact that I'm running speaks for itself."

Maris also said he's encouraged by Dore's approach. "They're very open to questions and concerns."

Others praised the competing parties for including minority candidates. Cheung commented, "The three major parties are trying to include minority candidates. I'm happy to see that. Four years ago, the major parties did not have a single member from Asian, African or Latin communities."

Still, he was sceptical about the rationale behind running minority candidates in 'suicide ridings' with no chance of success. He said other races, like the one in Decarie between Boskey and Murray-Denis, unfairly "force the voter to choose affirmative action or a proven councillor."



... fighting homophobia in Mtl.

... continued from page 11

But Blain says the main problem lies not in City Hall but in the community itself. "The gay and lesbian community has so few credible representatives," he says. "The organizations are young, politically immature, and have continuity problems. When I would set aside a place to consult with gays and lesbians, I'd be embarrassed because nobody would show up."

Sypnowich and Hendricks agree the community needs maturity and has internal splits that make representation difficult. But they say the administration must try harder to deal with the diverse tendencies of both the gay and the lesbian milieus.

According to Westman, "We

have to come to the point where lesbians and gays are not marginal but an integral part of the whole community, and treated as such. Large American cities have found ways of creating official liaisons with their gay and lesbian populations. When will that happen here?"

Blain says the City already has found ways of working with the gay and lesbian population. He thought he'd have more trouble getting ideas through the administration and the civil service, but such initiatives as the recent AIDS policy often passed unanimously. "I never thought this would happen four years ago," Blain says.

Hendricks recognizes that "Blain has been the only spokes-

person, the only member of council who recognizes he has gays and lesbians in his area and is willing to speak up for us." He contrasts Blain with "the overweight Mr. Nick Auf Der Maur," who ignores the high gay and lesbian population in his Peter McGill riding, for example.

If nothing else, Blain has opened the doors of City Hall to the notion of gay and lesbian representation. Perhaps Westman and other opposition candidates can now turn that opening into an effective force against homophobia.

"We still have to put a lot more pressure on," Westman asserts. "And it'll come from sitting down in the streets, not from sitting in the backbenches of the MCM."

Culture meeting
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in Union B-03

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The Daily wants your news. If you know some, are some, or smell some, give us a call. 398-6784

The McGill Film Society presents a screening of student films produced by the MFS 1989-1990.

FILMS TO BE SCREENED

Metempsychosis

Love's Laugh

Starting to Blossom

Every Man's Right to His Own Madness

Penny For Your Thoughts

M. Miller

C. Keaton

R. Juergen

D. Piperni

D. Gordon

Monday November 5th, 1990

THE ALLEY

8:00 • FREE ADMISSION

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING, STAND THERE!

- Advisory Committee for Selection of a Dean of Arts (2 students, 1 alternate)
Dean of Education (2 students, 1 alternate)
- Senate Committee on Student Grievances (1 student, 2 alternates)
- Student at Large - for ad hoc committee on SSMU general office renovations (1 student)

General application forms are available at the info. kiosk. Please submit to Leslie Copeland, Operations Secretary (6810), SSMU General Office by Nov. 6, 1990.



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- Shamen - En-Tact
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WED., NOV 7, 1990

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5237 Clanranald

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Tickets at
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3460 Stanley
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Roommate wanted to share 5 1/2 apt. in ghetto, corner of Milton and Hutchison. \$250 per month all included - large room with fake fireplace! Call 499-1838 or 398-6781 after 6 pm. Bill & Mark.

2 large bedrooms to rent from Dec. 1. Beautifully furnished. Ideal for student in new condominium. 18 minutes from McGill University. Access to kitchen, bathroom, washer and dryer. TV in room, wall-to-wall carpeting. \$350, \$300/monthly all inclusive. Call 288-0016 or 288-9638.

343 - Movers/Storage

Moving/Storage. Closed van. Will transport you and your goods safely. Local and long distance. Cheap. Steve 735-8148.

Large Econoline Van - for moving local & long distance. Reliable with reasonable rates. Alex, 324-3794.

Stationwagon for hire. Will pick up and/or deliver. References available. Near campus. 871-9408

350 - Jobs

Bartenders - Get yourself a very lucrative part-time job. The Master School of Bartending offers training courses and placement service. 2021 Peel St. (Peel Metro). 849-2828
STUDENT DISCOUNTS

352 - Help Wanted

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356 - Typing Services

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358 - Services Offered

Air-conditioning and refrigeration service. Will pick-up unwanted fridges, freezers from ground level, and air conditioners. Call me: I'm not more honest; just better looking. 871-9408!

Hairstyling. Look hot when it's cold! Corn rows and extensions. On campus, low rates. Call Theo 393-3302 between 5-10 pm. Leave message.

Young French-speaking man is looking for someone to exchange French lessons for English lessons. Mostafa 523-5310.

Willing females and males needed for student haircuts. Supervised by professionals. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 5:30 pm for cuts. \$10. Estetica 2175 Crescent. for appointments 849-9231.

361 - Articles for Sale

Brand new computers for sale: 286-386-486. high resolution monitors. Financing available - guaranteed best price. # 333-9033

Samsung SPX 3000 IBM compatible computer for sale. 30 MB hard disk, 3 1/2 & 5 1/4 diskette drives, screen, modem, WPS1, norton, etc. \$1,000! Bob 272-6730.

21" colour TV and GE Starcom XT converter. \$125 O.B.O. Call Chris at 284-6400.

Return plane ticket to Vancouver for Xmas (female). Leave Dec. 21, return Jan. 2 \$550 o.b.o. Must sell, call 398-9203.

Fridge for sale. Excellent condition \$175.00. Call evenings 286-8260.

372 - Lost & Found

Found. Set of two keys corner of Peel and Dr. Penfield on Friday Oct. 19th. Call Kevin at 282-1669.

Found - glasses: Black frame "Chic Optic" picked up on Coloniale below Prince Arthur, Sept. 27. Call Dave 281-3024.

Ladies watch found student union building around October 1st. Please call 398-6796 to identify.

374 - Personals

Is your closet getting too small? Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counselling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

McGill Christian Fellowship's November worship service is this Friday! 19h. Presbyterian College Chapel. sharing with us on "relationships" will be Pauline Richards from the Pregnancy Counselling Centre.

Halowe'en!! Are you spooked by the night? Call McGill Nightline. 398-6246. 6 pm - 3 am every night.

Jewish? Groups are forming for everything from Talmud study to Jewish Meditation. Call Yakov, your campus Rabbi at 845-9171. Let's get together just to talk sometime.

383 - Lessons Offered

LSAT, GMAT and GRE preparation courses - Take our 20 hour intensive weekend courses prior to each exam. Tuition fee - \$190. For information call 1 800 387-5519.

University student will tutor French grammar. Beginners, intermediate. Call Val, 485-4593.

Acting courses. All levels. For film, TV or stage. Hobby, self-development or careers purposes. Focus on improvisations and introduction to scripts. Limited space. Call 483-4555.

Voice and speech courses. For mastery and control of your speaking voice. Focus on projection and accent correction. Limited space. Small classes. Individualized attention. 483-4555

385 - Notices

Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information and counselling talkline. Call us with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17h30.

Sopranos, Tenors, Basses are needed for McGill Choral Society. repertoire: Rutter's Gloria, PDQ Bach's Seasonings, and others. Rehearsal Wednesday 19h30 in Strathcona Music Building C310.

Having problems with your landlord? Your employer? Are legal questions keeping you up at night? If you need help sorting out these problems & more CALL or DROP BY the McGill Legal Information Clinic. M-Fri/10-5 pm • 398-6792 • Rooms B20, B21 & B01-B of the Students' Union Building!

GALOM general meeting Thursday Room 425 7 pm. Followed by Will Aitken (CBC Newswatch). Author of Terre Haute will read from his book and speak afterwards.

T-shirt design contest for Animal Rights. Any size. Use 1 or 2 colors. Over \$75 in prizes. Deadline Nov. 12. For details see poster or call META 276-0914.

The McGill Film Society presents a screening of student films produced 1989-1990. Monday, November 5th, at The Alley, 8:00 pm. Free admission.

Senandung Semalam - A night of cultural harmony. Featuring performances from East Asia. Pollack Concert Hall, Nov. 3rd, 7:30 pm. Tickets - Union building, at the door. \$5.00 students, \$7.00 general.

Criminals in Love
Montreal's English premier of George F. Walker's black comedy. Young love amidst crime. Opens Oct. 31 Halloween. Runs Oct. 31 - Nov. 10 at Player's Theatre. 3480 McTavish, 3rd floor.

387 - Volunteers

Contribute more than just to your CV. Have you been appointed to a Senate committee? Or want to be? Come pick up your information/briefing documents at the SSMU general offices or call D. Pentecost, VP University Affairs 398-6797.

389 - Musicians Wanted

Competent bassist and drummer wanted for band. Going to make blues and rock as funky as possible. Call Steve 286-2479.

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